



GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

July 15 , 2011

Preparedness & Planning

Bioterrorism and the Vital Role of Family Physicians

In this [article](#), Dr. Mark Harris and Dr. Kevin Yeskey make recommendations for how family physicians can be prepared for bioterrorism: understanding the clinical aspects of bioterrorism, preparing their medical offices, and getting involved in initiatives such as the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals or the Medical Reserve Corps.

Emergency Water Supply Planning Guide for Hospitals and Health Care Facilities

CDC and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) have released an Emergency Water Supply [Planning Guide](#) for Hospitals and Health Care Facilities. This report is complementary to a recent guide on Planning for an Emergency Drinking Water Supply which AWWA developed in partnership with the EPA.

CDC Launches Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Training Videos

CDC has posted two [videos online](#): Introduction to the Public Health Preparedness Capabilities (PHEP 101) and Overview of the Capabilities-Based Approach to Public Health Preparedness (PHEP 102).

Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) Coalition

Dialysis and kidney transplant patients must take special preparedness measures to ensure their own health and safety during and after disasters. The [KCER Coalition](#) provides technical assistance to end-stage renal dialysis Networks, Medicare organizations, and other groups to ensure timely and efficient disaster preparedness, response, and recovery for the kidney community.

Four Lessons from Fukushima: Improving Emergency Response

This article emphasizes the difference in radiation management between normal plant operations and in response to an accident and discusses four issues that emerged from the [Fukushima response](#): emergency reactor cooling did not begin soon enough, dose limits should have been raised quickly, rapid evacuation was unnecessary, and experts failed to describe the effects on health correctly.

Chemical Hazards Emergency Medical Management (CHEMM)

CHEMM is a new resource and Web site produced by the DHHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness to enable first responders, first receivers, other healthcare providers and planners to plan for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the effects of mass-casualty incidents involving chemicals. CHEMM provides a comprehensive, user-friendly, [Web-based resource](#) that is downloadable in advance, making it available during an event even if the internet is not accessible.

News

A Cross-Training Rundown: A Look at the Most Prevalent Uses of Cross Training in Today's Public Workforce.

This article reviews several of the ways that state and local governments are using cross-training to improve the effectiveness of the [public workforce](#) with diminishing resources.

New Analysis of Local Health Department Budget Cuts Surveys Demonstrates Depth of Program and Job Losses

NACCHO has found that 6,000 local health department [jobs were cut](#) in 2010, and that approximately 19% of the local health department workforce has been eliminated since 2008. An additional 18,000 employees had mandatory furloughs or reduced hours.

HHS Grants Boost Disaster Preparedness in Hospitals, Health Care Systems

Today HHS awarded approximately [\\$352 million](#) in the Hospital Preparedness Program. The program funds hospitals and health care systems in capabilities such as medical surge, tracking hospital beds and supporting volunteer registry systems.

Table of Contents...

Preparedness and Planning	1
Surveillance	2
Communications	2
Pandemic Planning.....	3
Other News.....	3
Training & Education	4

Read the Next *Guardian* Issue!
July 29, 2011

Business Planning for Public Health Programs

The University of Washington Northwest Center for Public Health Practice has released a new [online module](#) titled, Business Planning for Public Health Programs.

It's Time to Toss the Three-Day Preparedness Message

Eric Holdeman, former director of the King County, WA Office of Emergency Management, argues that disaster public education should warn people to be prepared to [survive for a week](#) following a major catastrophe. Citing the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the traditional message of three days may not be realistic.



National Preparedness

[GAO Report](#): DHS and HHS Can Further Strengthen Coordination for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Risk Assessments

Public Health Preparedness

[GAO Report](#): Developing and Acquiring Medical Countermeasures against Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Agents

Surveillance

Q Fever Cases Reported in Montana, Washington, and Michigan

Approximately 14 individuals in three states have had confirmed or suspected cases of [Q Fever Meningitis](#), caused by *Coxiella burnetii*, which is typically found in cattle, sheep and goats. Some cases were contracted through inhaling bacteria in contaminated barns and others by drinking raw milk through a dairy herd share program.

Borders, Budgets, and the Rising Risk of Disease

This week RADM Khan in the CDC Public Health Matters blog warned that, due to a 50% funding cut to the Early Warning Infectious Disease Program and a 12.5% reduction in preparedness grants, there may be [increased threat](#) from infectious disease in the US-Mexico border regions.

High Number of Reported Measles Cases in the U.S. in 2011—Linked to Outbreaks Abroad

In June 2011, CDC issued a [health advisory](#) based on the high number of measles cases reported in the US this year. Since January 1, 156 cases have been confirmed; 136 of these were related to international travel.

More Information:

MDCH [press release](#) on measles

MDCH [Key Facts](#) About Measles

E coli Cases Still Piling Up as Trade Dispute Persists

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control now reports 3,593 cases of enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* and 40 deaths related to [contaminated sprouts](#). The World Health Organization counted several additional cases in Canada, the US, and Switzerland.

Communications

The National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures

After months of work groups, Web dialogues, community conversations and public comment opportunities, the Action Agenda, authored by the [National Conversation](#) Leadership Council, includes clear, achievable recommendations to help government agencies and other organizations strengthen their efforts to protect the public from harmful chemical exposures.

Pandemic Planning

GAO Reports on Influenza Pandemic and Influenza Vaccine

Influenza Pandemic: Lessons from the H1N1 Pandemic Should Be Incorporated into Future Planning.

[GAO Report](#)

[Highlights](#)

Influenza Vaccine: Federal Investments in Alternative Technologies and Challenges to Development and Licensure.

[GAO Reports](#)

[Highlights](#)

Acting on the Lessons of SARS: What Remains To Be Done?

Dr. Eric Toner, Senior Associate at the UPMC Center for Biosecurity, reviews the SARS pandemic eight years ago, from the [lessons learned](#) to what remains to be done.

The Geographic Synchrony of Seasonal Influenza A: Waves across Canada and the United States

PLoS One published an article outlining the geographic patterns of seasonal influenza waves as they spread across Canada and the US. The researchers collected data from the Canadian FluWatch and the US FluView programs from 1997 to 2007 which outlined laboratory confirmed seasonal influenza cases. The research showed that there wasn't a distinct [wave pattern](#) of influenza found between the influenza seasons analyzed. They also found that urban and rural outbreaks happened close to the same time and not spreading from urban to rural as previously noted in other research.

Agent-Based Simulation for Weekend-Extension Strategies to Mitigate Influenza Outbreaks

Researchers at BioMed Central Public Health tested whether extending weekends during influenza outbreaks would mitigate them. They utilized an agent-based spatially explicit simulation model based on Buffalo, NY. They tested the effect of [extending the weekend](#) one, two, and three days. The data showed that a weekend extension of two days or more helped to mitigate seasonal influenza. A weekend extension of three days or more helped to mitigate pandemic influenza. The researchers also mention that a 75% compliance rate or above is needed for the weekend extension to have any effect.

Other News

Anxious Searchers Miss Multiple Targets

Duke University psychologists put a dozen students through a test in which they searched for particular shapes on a computer display, simulating the sort of [visual searching](#) performed by airport security teams and radiologists. A Duke University release reports that in earlier studies of this type, the research team had wondered whether the anxiety produced by being

visible to a long line of frustrated travelers or having to interpret an image in a medical emergency might change a person's performance on these sorts of tasks. Subjects performed about the same when searching for a single object whether anxious (caused by a noxious stimulus) or not. When the researchers added a second target, however, participants were more likely to miss the second object when anxious, despite spending the same amount of time looking at the image.

Population Density Increases Around Nuclear Power Plants



As America's nuclear power plants have aged, the once-rural areas around them have become far more crowded and much more difficult to evacuate. Populations around the facilities have swelled as much as 4½ times since 1980, a computer assisted [population analysis](#) shows. But some estimates of evacuation times have not been updated in decades, even as the population has increased more than ever imagined. Emergency plans would direct residents to flee on antiquated, two-lane roads that clog at rush hour. And evacuation zones have remained frozen at a 10-mile radius from each plant since they were set in 1978, despite all that has happened since, including the accidents at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima Dai-ichi in Japan. Meanwhile, the dangers have increased.

Fusion Forums: Taming the Information Overload Beast

The HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response wants to standardize the way that information from multiple data sources in the aftermath of a disaster, including social media, is converted into situational awareness for response. HHS is conducting a [discussion series](#) on this topic called "Fusion Forums" and encourages private industry, government agencies, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and the public to participate.

A Citizen's Radiation Dosimeter That Fits In the Wallet

The DHS Science and Technology Directorate National Urban Security Technologies has been awarded a patent on a plan for a [wallet-sized card](#) that would measure exposure to ionizing radiation. The device, called the Citizen's Dosimeter, would also need a card reader which could be used by first responders.

National Strategy for Counterterrorism

The White House released its National Strategy for [Counterterrorism report](#) on June 28, 2011. This report outlines the United States strategy to fight terrorism worldwide. The full report is available online

Training & Events

EM 230: Mental Health Aspects of Emergencies and Disasters for Non-Mental Health Professionals

Online Course

Health care professionals and volunteers must be able to respond effectively to the psychological needs of affected individuals, response personnel and communities. [EM 230](#) is designed to prepare non-mental health professionals to identify symptoms of mental health distress and refer affected individuals to appropriate behavioral health resources.

FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness Resident Training: Health-care Track

Location: Anniston, AL

Scheduled [classroom and simulation courses](#) are offered on a rotating ba-

sis. All-hazards preparedness training for state, local, or tribal government emergency responders is fully funded, including travel, meals, and lodging, by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Emergency Medical Operations for CBRNE Incidents (PER-267); Intermediate Hands-On Training for CBRNE Incidents (PER-900) Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents (PER-902); Hands-On Training for CBRNE Incidents (PER-262)

Continuity Webinar Series

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Continuity of Operations Division has replaced its Annual Strategic Planning Conference for States, Territories and the District of Columbia with a [Webinar series](#) that will be held monthly, starting June 1, 2011. The Webinar are specifically designed for those who plan, train, and manage continuity of operations programs.

Date/Time	Event	Location
July 27-29, 2011	Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Taining The Counseling & Career Development Center at Grand Valley State University will be offering a three-day combined CISM training workshop : Basic Group and Individual, on July 27-29, 2011, on the GVSU Allendale Campus. This is a unique opportunity to receive training in both Basic Group and Individual CISM in a condensed time frame. This training is an MCOLES approved program. State Board and Social Work continuing education credits are also available.	Grand Valley State University
August 9-11, 2011	National Conference on Health Communications, Marketing, and Media The Fifth Annual National Conference on Health Communications, Marketing, and Media brings together academics, public health researchers, and practitioners from Federal and state government and the private sector, and provides a forum for collegial dialogue within and across these disciplines. The conference provides an excellent opportunity to meet with colleagues and shape the future of health communications, marketing, and media practice. Sponsors: Office of the Associate Director for Communication, CDC; SAMHSA; National Cancer Institute; and National Public Health Information Coalition.	Omni Hotel Atlanta, GA
August 10-11, 2011	Community Health Resilience Summit 2011: Information Exchange for Situational Awareness and Optimal Decision-Making The Summit will highlight needs, current initiatives and capabilities to develop the information exchange and situational awareness capabilities necessary to enhance community health resilience with the goal of identifying synergies and areas of cooperation that can lead to an approach that can be applied nationwide. A major focus of the Summit is to highlight current best practices, approaches, tools, technologies and activities that can be leveraged to develop an interoperable system that is readily scalable to meet the requirements of multiple local, state and federal government, private sector and non-profit stakeholders.	Washington, DC

Date/Time	Event	Location
August 11-12, 2011 Application Deadline: July 5, 2011	Health Impact Assessment Training Opportunity. Application Deadline: July 5, 2011 The Michigan Department of Community Health is accepting applications to attend a <u>free Health Impact Assessment (HIA) training</u> for public health professionals and planners. The training is designed to bring together public health professionals and city/county planners to learn how to use HIA methodology to determine the health impacts of projects and policies. MDCH is encouraging teams of two to four individuals including at least one person from the local health department and one from the community's planning department to attend together so that each discipline can share its perspective, and relationships can be built between planning and public health. For more information or to apply: www.michigan.gov/climateandhealth	R.A. MacMullan Conference Center Roscommon, MI
August 15-15, 2011	Free CERC Training CDC's 1-1/2 day course provides valuable instruction for those who will perform <u>crisis and emergency risk communication</u> and media relations in the event of a public health emergency. Participants learn how to systematically plan, develop, implement, and evaluate crisis and emergency risk communication activities. Registration is required. Limited scholarships are available for travel and lodging.	CDC Headquarters, Atlanta, GA



Mailing Address:
Office of Public Health Preparedness
Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>



This publication is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 5U90/TP517018-09 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.